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NEWS RELEASE

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Contact: Ted Martin, Fire Chief (417) 243-2790, Office

“OPERATION RED WREATH” PROMOTES HOLIDAY FIRE SAFETY IN BRANSON

This Christmas holiday season Branson residents and visitors may notice a large wreath with 31 red lights in front of Branson Fire Stations 1 and 3. The wreaths have been placed there to celebrate the Christmas season and to encourage holiday fire safety.

“Operation Red Wreath” is a fire service-based program that has been used across the nation to encourage fire safety during the Christmas holiday season,” stated Fire Chief Ted Martin. “Each wreath has 31 red bulbs representing the days in the month of December. For any holiday related fire, a red bulb will be replaced with a white bulb.”

The goal is to keep all 31 bulbs red through January 1. “The holiday season brings with it several fire hazards from the use of extension cords for holiday decorations, the use of live Christmas Trees, fireplaces, candles, and lots of cooking,” stated Chief Martin.

The fire department recommends installing holiday decorations such as Christmas lights as recommended on the packaging and not overloading electrical circuits. When using live Christmas trees to make a fresh cut removing two inches from the bottom of the trunk, keeping fresh water to the tree daily, and not placing it near heat sources such as fireplaces, space heaters, or furnace registers.

“Unattended cooking is probably one of the most common causes of fires throughout the year and the holidays are no exception,” stated Chief Martin. Never leave cooking appliances unattended and use extreme caution with the turkey deep fryers. Make sure to keep combustible materials away from all of these heat sources.

For more information regarding holiday fire safety, contact the fire department at (417) 243-2780 or your local fire department. The Branson Fire Firefighters wish everyone a “Fire-Safe” Merry Christmas.



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